

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 8 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

NCNA ANNOUNCES 4 CONFERENCES ON PRC DEFENSE BEING HELD IN PEKING, DEALING WITH AIR DEFENSE, WAR SUPPLIES, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND DEFENSE PLANNING; TALKS AIMED AT "MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" (PHINQ).

USAF ANNOUNCED SUNDAY IT HAD LAUNCHED TITAN 3-C ROCKET THAT RELIABLE SOURCES SAID CARRIED SPY SATELLITE, ONE OF CONTINUING SERIES TO MONITOR LAUNCHING OF MISSILES/SATELLITES BY SOVIET AND PRC (LAT 2/7)

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2. TIBET

TIBETAN LAMA, "KARMAPA," PERFORMED VAJRA CROWN CEREMONY BEFORE 700 SUNDAY--FIRST TIME EVER IN CHICAGO. ON WORLD-WIDE TOUR, HE WILL RETURN TO SIKKIM TO WHICH HE FLED AFTER CHINESE INVADED TIBET IN 1959 (CDN'S BOWMAN, 2/1).

IN SAN FRANCISCO, "KARMAPA" MOVED INTO 32 ROOM MANSION HQ RENTED FOR FORTNIGHT'S STAY, ACCOMPANIED BY DOZENS OF SUITCASES/ENTOURAGE OF 9 ROBED MONKS/TRANSLATOR. HOLY MAN'S

SPOKESMAN SAID "FABULOUS" RENTAL PAID ON MANSION WAS LESS THAN WHAT ST. FRANCIS HOTEL CHARGED FOR HIS STAY IN PRESIDENTIAL SUITE ON PREVIOUS VISIT (NYT).

3. JAPAN

JAMESON (LAT 2/7) REPORTS MONDALE'S TALK W/FUKUDA SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED US-JAPAN ECON CONFLICT AREAS--COLOR TVS/STEEL/CITRUS FRUITS. VP'S STATEMENTS HAD IMMEDIATE IMPACT. PM ACKNOWLEDGED "TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR" TVS, STEEL/ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY LEADERS EXPRESSED CONCERN, TOKYO STOCK MARKET PRICES FELL. JAMESON ADDS VP CONCLUDED W/STATEMENT JAPAN/US/OTHER ADVANCED NATIONS WOULD HAVE TO "MONITOR EACH OTHER'S PROGRESS."

JAPAN/EC BEGIN SHIPBUILDING TALKS AIMED AT REACHING MARKET-SHARING AGREEMENT/AVERTING OPEN TRADE WAR. AT OECD MTG, JAPAN SUGGESTED TOUGHER CONTROLS, INCL FLOOR PRICES, SO THAT JAPANESE SHIPYARDS CANNOT BE ACCUSED OF DUMPING VESSELS ON WORLD MARKET (REUTER PARIS; WSJ; CULLISON, JOC).

EC SLAPPED HEAVY DUTIES ON JAPANESE MFRS 2/7 FOR ALLEGEDLY DUMPING STEEL BEARINGS ON COMMON MARKET. MOVE FOLLOWS EC EXEC COMMISSION INVESTIGATION UPHOLDING EUR STEEL MFRS' CHARGE THAT JAPANESE PRICE-SLASHING CAUSED SERIOUS PRODUCTION CUTBACKS/UNEMPLOYMENT (UPI WP, JOC, NYT).
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GOJ MAY SOON REQUEST CARTER ADMIN AGREE TO HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON LEGAL WAYS FOR JAPAN'S STEEL INDUSTRY PREVENT EXCESSIVE EXPORTS OF ROLLED STEEL INTO US. MITI CONCERNED ANY VOLUNTARY EFFORT BY JAPANESE MILLS WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN VIOLATION SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST ACT (JOC).

US IMPORT POL AWAITING CUSTOMS COURT DECISION ON ZENITH CORP CONTENTION THAT TREASURY SHOULD IMPOSE ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTIES ON JAPANESE ELECTRICAL GOODS TO COMPENSATE FOR LOCAL TAX GOJ REBATES TO MFRS ON GOODS SOLD ABROAD. SOME WASHINGTON OFFICIALS FEAR CREATION LEGAL PRECEDENT FOR SIMILAR PROTECTIONIST ACTION, ARE SOUNDING OUT KEY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES ABOUT POSSIBLE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION DESIGNED NULLIFY ANY ADVERSE COURT FINDING (LEWIS, NYT).

OECD REPORT STATES JAPAN'S CONSUMER PRICES ROSE 10.4 PCT IN '76 (WP).

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC RECORDS 79.8 PCT RISE IN GROSS PROFITS OVER YEAR AGO (UPI, JOC).

TOYO KOGYO CORP ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION 1977 MAZDA RX-3 SP

ROTARY-POWERED COUPE, TO GO ON SALE US IN MARCH (BURK, BALT

NA 2/7).

HEAVY SNOWS IN N JAPAN HAVE KILLED AT LEAST 36 SINCE JAN (REUTER, NYT).

TOMIO IKEGAWA'S 25-FT SLOOP ENTERED FRISCO BAY 2/7, COMPLETING 118-DAY SOLO JOURNEY FROM JAPAN (UPI, WSTAR, BALT NA 2/7; NYT).

4. JAPAN/KOREA

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ROKG REJECTS RENEWED JAPANESE TERRITORIAL CLAIM TO TOK-DO, DESERTED/ROCKY ISLAND IN SEA OF JAPAN. REACTION COMES AFTER FUKUDA TOLD PARLIAMENT 2/5 THAT JAPAN CONSIDERING DECLARING 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATER LIMIT BASED ON CLAIM TOK-DO UNDER JAPANESE JURISDICTION (WSTAR 2/7).

5. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

RTG SENDS REINFORCEMENTS TO MEKONG BORDER AFTER GUN BATTLE W/PL SOLDIERS IN WHICH 1 LAOTIAN KIA. TWO OTHER BRIEF FIRE EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE. LAOTIAN FORCES SEIZED 2 SMALL DISPUTED RIVER ISLANDS BUT LEFT PEACEFULLY (REUTER, NYT).

HANOI OFFICIAL SAYS VN WOULD WELCOME FON INVESTMENT/GIVE FON FIRMS GUARANTEES THEY COULD OPERATE FOR 10-15 YRS, W/COMPENSATION FOR TAKEOVER (REUTER DELHI). VN OFFICIALS HOPE LURE FOREIGN TOURISTS TO EARN FOREX. IN NEXT FEW MOS TOUR GROUPS WILL VISIT SAIGON/DANANG/HUE. MOST TOURISTS SO FAR FRENCH (REUTER HA LONG, VN).

6. PHILIPPINES

KAMM (NYT) REPORTS MAJOR POL TRIAL STARTS. DEFENDENTS ARE MEMBERS LOPEZ/OSMENA FAMILIES AND 4 OTHERS; CHARGED W/ PLOTTING 7 ATTEMPTS ON MARCOS'S LIFE/FOMENTING REBELLION. ACCUSED MEN IMPRISONED W/O TRIAL SINCE 9/72. KAMM SEES TRIAL ILLUSTRATING HOW FULLY MARCOS HAS ELIMINATED ALL POL OPPOSITION.

7. EX-PRES FORD AT YALE

FORD 2/7 INTER ALIA WARNED SK COULD BECOME "SECOND WATERGATE" DUE CHARGES SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN RECEIVED CASH GIFTS. CRITICIZED PRESS FOR NOT PURSUING SK STORY HARD AS DID WATERGATE (AP, SUN). STUDENTS SAID FORD HIT MEDIA FOR NOT REPORTING MORE ON ALLEGATIONS CONGRESSMEN RECEIVED CASH
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GIFTS FROM SK GOVT. FORD ALSO THOUGHT US HAS NO OBLIGATION AID IN VN RECONSTRUCTION DUE C-F VIOLATIONS. URGED CARTER ADMIN PRESS FOR FULL MIA ACCOUNTING (BECK, WP). FORD STATED MOTIVES RIGHT/TACTICS NOT BEST IN VN WAR (CARROLL, NYT).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. JAPAN

CHI S-T (2/3) ASKS CONGRESS OUTLAW CORPORATE BRIBERY. NOTES LOCKHEED SCANDAL HAS TAINTED LDP APPEAL TO VOTERS/ FORCED MIKI'S OUSTER/STRENGTHENED PARTIES OPPOSED TO US AIMS.

CDN (2/3) RECAPS MONDALE TRIP. MENTIONS JAPAN GOT CONFIRMATION CARTER PLAN WITHDRAW US TROOPS KOREA, BUT WAS ASSURED OF CONTINUED AIR COVER/STRENGTHENING SKOREAN TROOPS, SHOWING ANY POTENTIAL ENEMY US HASN'T "BUGGED OUT OF ASIA." NOTES VP DIDN'T CONFINE SELF TO "SWEET-TALK"; MADE CLEAR IN TOKYO US INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT VOLUME JAPAN'S EXPORTS TVS/STEEL IN FACT CONTINUING BARRIERS TO US IMPORTS.

9. INDOCHINA

CHITRIB CONSIDERS VN'S UN OBSERVER THI'S LAMENT THAT HE CAN SEE BROOKLYN FROM HIS OFFICE, BUT CAN'T GO THERE. OPINES BROOKLYN NOT SOMETHING ONE GOES TO, BUT SOMETHING ONE COMES FROM. POINTS OUT PEOPLE THERE HAVE FREEDOM-LOVING SPIRIT. CONCLUDES THI NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT BEING BANNED FROM BROOKLYN; "HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF HE DID GO THERE."

MURPHY (GLOBE) REVIEWS EMERSON'S BOOK, "WINNERS AND LOSERS." FINDS IT DISJOINTED/SHRILL/CARPING/BORING.
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10. PHILIPPINES

SHANNON OF "FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE" WRITES CSM TO ASK WHY US CONTINUES/INCREASES MIL AID TO REPRESSIVE MARCOS REGIME. BELIEVES REASON MAY BE BECAUSE PHILS IS BRIDGE FOR US ACCESSIBILITY TO SEA, SO SUPPORT REDUCTION COULD RESULT IN DECREASE US INVOLVEMENT IN AREA. ASKS IF "PROTECTION" OF DOMINO THEORY IS PRIMARY INTEREST OF USG AS COLLABORATES IN VIOLATION HUMAN RTS/DIGNITY FIL PEOPLE.

11. KOREA

LAT (2/6) CONSIDERS VANCE'S STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RTS

SENSIBLE, BUT NOTES HE WALKS TIGHTROPE ON SEVERAL AMBIGUOUS SITUATIONS. SEES SK AS 1 OF MOST NAGGING POLICY MATTERS FOR US, DUE REPRESSIVE GOVT, BUT PROBLEM THAT TO END US TIES WOULD RISK GRAVE STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES AFFECTING JAPAN/PRC/WHOLE STRUCTURE PEACE IN PAC; ADDS WITHDRAWAL AID COULD END 1 OF WORLD'S MOST EFFECTIVE ECON DEV PROGRAMS THAT HAS ALREADY ELEVATED LIVING STDS OF MILLIONS KOREANS.

12. JAPAN/KOREA

CDN'S WHYMANT (TOKYO 2/1) SEES JAPAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE US TROOP CUTS IN SK AS THAT OF BYSTANDER WRINGING HANDS BUT DEFINITELY NOT READY INTERVENE/FILL POSSIBLE DEFENSE VACUUM AFTER US WITHDRAWAL. SAYS PRC'S VIEW OF PROPOSED US WITHDRAWAL FROM SK COINCIDES W/THAT OF JAPAN/SK.

13. CHINA

SIXTEEN STUDENTS FROM PRIVATE "COLORADO ACADEMY"--AGES 11-14--PLANNING PRC TRIP NEXT MONTH; YOUNGEST AMCIT GROUP UNCLASSIFIED

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ALLOWED ENTRY; STUDENTS SELECTED ON BASIS ESSAYS/FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS. CHINESE ISSUED VISAS AFTER RECEIVING APPLICATION STATING TRIP WOULD GIVE STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY EXAMINE PRC EDUCATION SYSTEM FIRSTHAND AT SAME LEVEL AND LEARN FIRSTHAND ABOUT CHINESE CULTURE. SCHOOL'S HISTORY INSTRUCTOR WHO WILL ACCOMPANY GROUP, WM SIMS, SPECULATED CHINESE EXPECT FAIR AMOUNT FAVORABLE RESPONSE HERE BECAUSE OF GROUP'S AGES; ADDED THAT STUDENTS COME FROM "POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE" ROCKY MT WEST, AND PEKING MIGHT CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT IF IT WISHES MORE FORMAL RELS WITH US AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION (AP, BALT NA 2/7).

IN PEKING, KRAFT SEES PRC MOVING FROM BITTER STRUGGLE FOR POWER TO FAR MORE BENIGN PERIOD OF NORMAL POL RIVALRY. FEELS TENG WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO OFFICE, PROBABLY AS DEPUTY VICE PREMIER OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF MIL AFFAIRS CMTE, RATHER THAN AS REPLACEMENT FOR HUA. BUT CONTENDING FACTIONS DIFFER ONLY IN APPROACH, BOTH CONCENTRATING ON PRC MODERNIZATION, WITH DO-OR-DIE STRUGGLES OF REVOLUTION ENDED (WP, SUN).

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD"(HK) NOTES PRC IN PAST HAS NEVER PUBLICIZED-DEFENSE PLANNING; FEELS PUBLIC ATTENTION GIVEN CURRENT 4 NATIONAL PARLEYS MAY BE DESIGNED UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE NOW BEING ATTACHED TO MODERNIZATION DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. COMBINATION OF BEING BOTH "RED" (POLITICALLY CORRECT) AND "EXPERT" (TECHNICALLY ADVANCED) APPEARS IDEAL FOR WHICH PEKING NOW AIMS; IN PRACTICE, MAY MEAN

-ACRIFICING SOME IDEOLOGICAL RECTITUDE FOR EXPERTISE.

MATHEWS (WP HK) FEELS NCNA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF 4 MIL DEFENSE CONFERENCES IS IN PART SIGN OF PLA'S IMPORTANCE TO HUA. NOTES THAT IN CONTRAST TO RELATIVELY VIVID OFFICIAL DESCRIPTIONS OF FACTIONAL BATTLES BEFORE PURGE OF "GANG OF FOUR," REFERENCES TO CURRENT POL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN VERY VAGUE; BUT CITES SUGGESTIONS IN SOME CIRCLES THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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SOME LOCAL LEADERS HAVE NOT SUFFICIENTLY SUPPORTED HUA AND HIS DECISION TO PURGE "GANG OF FOUR."

LAT'S LESLIE (HK 2/7) SAYS INFO PIECED TOGETHER INDICATES TANGSHAN EARTHQUAKE 6 MONTHS AGO WAS DEVASTATING, HISTORY'S 2ND WORST. FINDS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT PEKING HAS NOT CHALLENGED AUTHENTICITY OF TAIWAN'S REPORT OF QUAKE'S IMPACT.

IN 2/6 DISPATCH, LESLIE OBSERVES PRC FAILS SEE CONTRADICTION IN ITS "EXTENSIVE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM" TO THIRD WORLD, WHILE REJECTING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE FOR ITSELF ON GROUND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO CHINESE "NATIONAL SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE."

TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S MUNRO (PEKING) SUGGESTS ISSUE NOW HOW MODERNIZE MILITARILY WHILE ECONOMY STILL IN EARLY STAGES DEVELOPMENT IS ONE ISSUE CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED IN CHINESE DEFENSE TALKS--AS IT HAS BEEN IN CAUTIOUS/GENERAL TERMS, IN NUMBER OF RECENT ARTICLES IN OFFICIAL PRESS (WP, CSM).

CSM'S STEIN NOTES THAT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SINO-US TRADE BEGAN IN 1972, PEKING HAS SOLD MORE GOODS TO US THAN IT BOUGHT. YET, PRC REMAINS MINOR US TRADING PARTNER; FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION THIS YEAR EXPECTED RESULT ONCE AGAIN IN HEFTY US TRADE ADVANTAGE. NOTES LACK OF FULL RELS HAS SLOWED EXPORT OF SOPHISTICATED US TECHNOLOGY, PROHIBITED SIGNING TRADE PROTOCOLS WHICH WOULD TEND STABILIZE SINO-US PURCHASES.

LAT'S KIRSCH REVIEWS BACHRACK'S "THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION: 'CHINA LOBBY' POLITICS." FINDS IT SCHOLARLY/ EMINENTLY FAIR ACCOUNT, IN REFRESHING CONTRAST TO "USUAL BLARE AND EXAGGERATION" OF LOBBY'S DEFENDERS/ATTACKERS (2/4).

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IN LETTER TO CSM, FRANK TAO OF ROC EMBASSY SEEKS "EMPHATICALLY STATE" HE IS OFFICIALLY ADVISED BY ROC NATIONAL

DEFENSE MINISTRY THAT TAIPEI HAS NEVER BOUGHT ANY US WEAPONS THROUGH ISRAEL, AS CLAIMED IN RECENT COOLEY DISPATCH FROM ATHENS.

14. ADD NEWS - CHINA

REUTER REPORTS CARTER ASSURED HUANG CHEN TUES THAT HIS ADMIN COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SINO-US RELS. PRES CITED "IMPORTANT PROGRESS" MADE IN RECENT YEARS, WHICH HE WANTS SEE "STRENGTHENED VERY MUCH" IN NEXT FEW YEARS. HUANG SAID VANCE TOLD HIM LAST MONTH CARTER ADMIN WOULD BE GUIDED BY SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE; SAID CHINESE BELIEVE LONG AS BOTH SIDES OBSERVE ALL ITS PRINCIPLES STRICTLY, SINO-US RELS WILL CONTINUE IMPROVE.
VANCE

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